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RECORD OF GENUS *CAENOCHOLAX* PIERCE (MYRMECOLACIDAE, STREPSIPTERA) FROM INDIA¹

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(With four text-figures)

The genus was erected by Pierce (1909) for a Mexican species, *Caenocholax fenysi* Pierce which was designated as the type species. The genus is characterised by seven segmented antenna with 3rd segment laterally produced into a long flabellum, fourth segment transverse, fifth, sixth and seventh elongated and flattened; wing having six primary veins with a short detached vein below the apex of R, short M being continued by a long detached vein; absence of Cu and A₃; four segmented tarsi without claw.

Terminologies and mode of species description presented in this paper have been followed after Bohart (1941, 1951), Chaudhuri *et al.* (1978), Pierce (1909, 1918) and Kinzelbach (1973).

Caenocholax pierci sp. nov.

MALE:

Body length 2.26 (n=6) mm.

Wing length: 1.52 (1.50-1.52, n=5) mm.

Head: Dark brown in colour and transverse.

Eyes hairy, facets rounded and 18-20 in number. Maxillary palp with short transverse basal segment and the terminal segments long and flattened. Antenna (Fig. 1) brown seven segmented, first two segments cylindrical, third laterally produced into a long flabellum reaching up to the middle of segment VII being 1.05 mm long, fourth small and transverse, fifth elongated, largest and blunt, sixth and seventh cylindrical; length ratio of antennal segments I-VII 5:2:4:3:34:22:30.

Thorax: Dark brown in colour. Pronotum small and inserted into broad, transverse mesonotum, scutum notched in the middle and united for some distance in the middle behind the prescutum, postscutellum large and tongue-shaped covering the base of first abdominal segment.

Wing (Fig. 2): Halteres with grey knob and

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white stem. Hind wing fan-like more or less transparent with pale margin and conspicuous veins. Six primary veins arise from the base: C dark brown reaches about half of the length of the wing; Sc separate and runs parallel to C ending a little behind C; R arises from the base and runs upto two-thirds of the total length of wing; R_2 and R_3 appear to be interrupted continuation of R and are free veins between R and M; R_2 bent and forked at the apex; R_3 little curved near the tip of the wing; M is contiguous with R but soon diverges extending a little behind the base of R_3 ; M_2 appears as an unattached vein running parallel to M and ends near the margin; A_1 arises below the base of M and diverges

ending at the margin of wing; A_2 more or less similar to A_1 but bent at the middle.

Legs (Fig. 3): Fore and mid coxa transverse, hind coxa shorter, trochanters stout and larger than femur in fore and mid legs; hind trochanter short; femur almost as long as tibia in fore and mid legs, hind femur and tibia shorter; tarsi four segmented and funnel-shaped without any claw; tarsomere I of fore and mid legs larger than those of the hind; length ratio of tarsomeres from I-IV 16:6:4:5 in fore 14:6:6:5 in mid and 4:3:3:4 in hind leg.

Abdomen: Tergite IX backwardly produced and encloses the genital cavity. Aedeagus (Fig. 4) more or less plough shaped with sharply pointed tip.

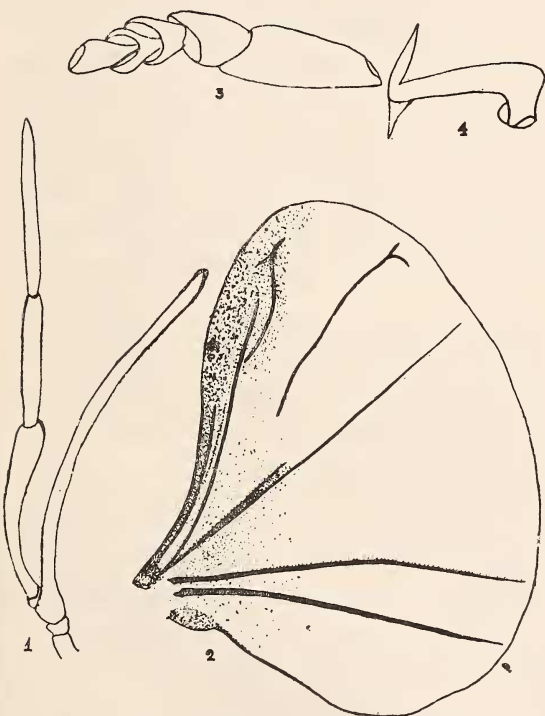
Female: Unknown.

Material: Holotype male (Type no. 90, B.U. Ent.), India, West Bengal, Kantaticar (Burdwan), 24.4.1979, Coll. Miss S. Sarkar. Paratypes 8 males, data same as holotype and will be deposited to the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta and U.S.N.M., Washington D.C.

The species is dedicated to late Dr. W. D. Pierce for his outstanding contribution to the study of this peculiar group of insects. It seems close to *Caenocholax fenysi* Pierce (1909, 1918) from Mexico in general morphology and the male genitalia but its identity as a distinct and valid species is evident from the structure of veins, halteres, legs and the aedeagus of male genitalia.

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Figs. 1-4. *Caenocholax pierci* sp. nov. ♂; 1) antenna; 2) wing; 3) hind tarsomeres I-IV and 4) aedeagus.

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